

Delaware Medicare Beneficiaries Saved Over 10 Million Dollars in Last 3 Years

Dover, DE –Delaware Insurance Commissioner Trinidad Navarro is pleased to announce that the Delaware Medicare Assistance Bureau (DMAB) was recently awarded \$79,889 in Federal grant funding. The Medicare Improvement for Patients and Provider Act (MIPPA) grants are to help low income Medicare beneficiaries apply for programs to help pay for Medicare costs.

These costs include:

1. The Medicare Part D Extra Help/Low-income Subsidy (LIS/Extra Help), which helps pay for the Part D premium and reduces the cost of prescriptions and
2. The Medicare Savings Program (MSP), which helps pay for Medicare Part B premiums. Some individuals may also save money on their Part A premiums, deductibles and co-insurance.

Some beneficiaries may qualify for a zero dollar premium and would pay no more than a \$3.35 copay for generic prescription drugs or an \$8.35 copay for brand name prescription drugs in 2018.

“We are very pleased that since 2015 our DMAB program has provided one on one counseling sessions to 16,802 Medicare beneficiaries and has also participated in 261 public and media events to assist our seniors, their loved ones and those with disabilities” said Commissioner Navarro.

“Our knowledgeable team provides free health insurance

counseling for people with Medicare questions related to coverage, enrollment and available plans. Medicare open enrollment is quickly approaching, October 15th to be exact. If you or a loved one has questions, give us a call” Commissioner Navarro added.

The DMAB program is funded by the Federal Government through its Administration for Community Living. Since 2015 the DMAB program has been awarded \$694,135 to provide low income subsidy application assistance. Since the Department of Insurance has participated in the program, 2,520 Medicare Part D beneficiaries have seen a yearly savings of approximately \$3,000, for a total of \$7,560,000. DMAB also provided Medicare savings application assistance to 1,963 Medicare beneficiaries who saved a yearly average of \$1,308 each on their Part B premiums, for a total of \$2,567,604.

The Delaware Medicare Assistance Bureau program offers free health insurance counseling to people of all ages with Medicare in Delaware. DMAB can help with questions about Medigap plans, Medicare Part D, Medicare Advantage plans and more.

For additional information call the Department of Insurance DMAB program at 302-674-7364 or in state toll free 800-336-9500.

You can also visit Insurance.Delaware.gov/DMAB